

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a pathology selected from the group consisting of asthma, chronic obstruction pulmonary disease, arthritis, lupus erythematosus, Alzheimer's disease, cerebral palsy, brain ischemia, stroke, glaucoma, acute food impaction, feeding disorders, sleeping disorders, scleroderma, rhinitis, systemic and pulmonary hypertension, psoriasis, baldness, impotence, and female arousal sexual dysfunction, autism, multiple sclerosis, enuresis, Parkinson's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and AIDS-associated dementias, comprising the step of administering to an individual an amount of a micelle composition effective to ameliorate conditions associated with the pathology, said micelle composition prepared in a method comprising the steps of:

- a)
- mixing one or more lipids with one or more biologically active amphipathic compounds, wherein at least one lipid component is covalently bonded to a water-soluble polymer, and wherein at least one amphipathic compound is a member of the VIP/glucagon/secretin family of peptides including peptide fragments and analogs;
- b)
- forming sterically stabilized micelles from the mixture of step (a) under conditions in which said compound(s) becomes associated with said micelles in a more biologically active conformation.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein in preparing the micelle composition, mixing in step (a) is carried out in an organic solvent and at least one lipid is conjugated to one or more targeting compound(s), and forming micelles in step (b) is carried out in a process comprising the steps of: (i) removing the organic solvent to leave a dry film, and (ii) hydrating the dry film with an aqueous solution, said method further comprising step of: (c) incubating said micelle products under conditions wherein the targeting compound(s) associates with said micelle products in an active conformation.

7-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~any one of claims 1, claim 5, or 7~~ wherein said water soluble polymer is polyethylene glycol (PEG).

11. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~any one of claims 1, claim 5, or 7~~ wherein the micelles have an average diameter of less than about 25 nm.

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12. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~any one of claims 1, claim 5, or 7~~ wherein the combination of lipids consists of distearoyl-phosphatidylethanolamine covalently bonded to PEG (PEG-DSPE).
